

NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



Interpretation Number: 95-03

Comments:

Accessibility requirements
concerning visual alarms

Date: 31 October 2003 (original 18 July 1995)

Pamphlet Number: Title 156, State of
Nebraska Accessibility Guidelines, NFPA
101, 2000 ed.

Section(s): 4.1.3(14), 4.28; 9.6.3.6

Question: When and where are visual alarms required?

Response: "If emergency warning systems are provided, then they shall include both audible and visual alarms..." Visual alarms shall provide notification for all emergency systems including, but not limited to, fire alarm signals and tornado alarm signals. In new buildings where an emergency warning system is provided, visual and audible alarms meeting the requirements of the Accessibility Guidelines shall be provided throughout. In existing buildings, the upgrade or replacement of a fire alarm system will require sufficient visual and audible coverage to meet accessibility requirements.

"At a minimum, visual signal appliances shall be provided in buildings and facilities in each of the following areas: restrooms and any other general use areas..., hallways, lobbies and any other area for common use." The definition of *common use areas* refers to spaces made available for the use of a restricted group of people. These areas will include employee breakrooms, filing and photocopy rooms, locker rooms, cafeterias, meeting and conference rooms, classrooms, and similar spaces not used solely as employee work areas. Common use spaces not required to be covered by visual strobes will be open space industrial areas and open space office areas with multiple cubicles used only as work areas.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Title: Dennis C. Hohbein, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal